1:Haskins K-4,5 (1952-1954)1956 SO11 Bahia Brazilians SO11

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221 (3) When the first rains come, the soil of both the seed bed and the fields are worked up with a hoe so that all vegetable matter is buried and all weeds turned under.

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[417] (4) If possible the land is fertilized. Under "ideal" circumstances cattle are penned nightly over the area by means of a small temporary corral. The corral may be maintained for a long period over the seed bed, but on the field it is moved frequently so that the whole area is fertilized. Generally the resulting manure is left exposed to the sun and rain until planting time. However, this "ideal" method of fertilization is rare. A very large number of tobacco cultivators have no cattle—they are too poor and their operations are too small for livestock. Most cattle are held by fazendéiros (ranchers) who do not themselves grow tobacco. Moreover, the intensiveness of cultivation keeps the cattle population too small to provide enough manure for all local needs. Usually it is necessary to buy fertilizer. Cattle manure is sometimes purchased from a local fazendéiro. More and more, however, the tobacco cultivators are dependent upon cattle, or better still, goat manure which is trucked into the Recôncavo from the sertão. The manure is spread over the seed bed to a depth of about one inch and over the field in such depth as the quantity allows.

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221 (5) From mid-April to the end of May, depending upon the weather and the condition of the tobacco field, the seeds are planted. Almost without exception the seeds are taken from completely exhausted tobacco plants of the previous year, plants no longer able to produce salable leaf. The soil is broken open and loosened, and the seeds are sown directly into the fertilizer. Since the fertility of the seeds is very low, they are sown very thickly. The seed bed is fenced but is rarely covered. In sixty to seventy days the seedlings are ready for transplanting.